

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCTJP40001	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/000874	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.01.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 31.01.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C02F 1/58, B01J 35/04, 23/50			
Applicant MATSUSHITA ENVIRONMENTAL & AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERING CO., LTD.			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																								
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/000874

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/000874Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	7, 9-12, 14-18	YES
	Claims	1-6, 8, 13	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	7	YES
	Claims	1-6, 8-18	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 10-118632 A (Unitika Ltd.), 12 May 1998, claims; page 4, left column, lines 10 to 42; and fig. 1 to 3, (Family: none)

Document 2: JP 11-244672 A (Daisen Menburen Systems Kabushiki Kaisha), 14 September 1999, fig. 1 to 3, (Family: none)

Document 3: JP 4-70187 U (Tomoko OKUGAWA), 22 June 1992, claims and fig. 2, (Family: none)

Document 4: JP 5-154481 A (Toto Ltd.), 22 June 1993, fig. 2, (Family: none)

Document 5: JP 11-309310 A (Chisso Corp.) 09 November 1999, fig. 2, (Family: none)

The inventions that are set forth in claims 1 to 6, 8 and 13 lack novelty and do not involve an inventive step.

Document 1 discloses a purification material for the purification of circulating water, which is configured by joining a corrugated sheet and a flat sheet, at least one of which contains fibrous activated carbon that allows the passage of water, in order to form a structure; rolling said structure into a columnar shape; and then forming through holes that pass between

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both of the end parts thereof.

In addition, document 1 also indicates that said corrugated sheet is configured from a laminated member, and that said purification material comprises silver.

The invention that is set forth in claim 9 does not involve an inventive step.

Module partitioning walls wherein projecting parts have been provided to the interior of the medium inflow passages are well known, as disclosed in document 5.

The inventions that are set forth in claims 10 and 11 do not involve an inventive step.

Document 2 discloses the feature of disposing a mesh member on the interior of a saccate filtering membrane; therefore, it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of configuring the module using the form of the configuration that is disclosed in document 2.

The invention that is set forth in claim 12 does not involve an inventive step.

Document 3 discloses the feature of configuring so that only one end of the water purification filter does not allow the passage of liquids. Therefore, it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of employing the configuration that is disclosed in document 3 in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

The inventions that are set forth in claims 14 to 18 do not involve an inventive step.

Document 4 discloses the feature of providing the module within a processing tank and temporarily storing a processing fluid within the processing tank, and then draining the processing fluid to the exterior of the processing tank when it reaches a prescribed level.

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